

2  
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—Michael Weisskopf  
and George Wilson

## *Inside: the Defense Department*

# Some Pentagon Civilians Face Drug-Abuse Tests

Civilian employees who hold "critical jobs" at the Pentagon will be tested for drug abuse under a new directive from Deputy Defense Secretary William H. Taft IV.

Expanding a program that is already in effect for military personnel, Taft's directive requires mandatory drug testing for law enforcement officers and those with "jobs involving the protection of property or persons from harm," which apparently refers to persons working with sensitive weapons.

A third category covers "positions involving the national security or the internal security of the Department of Defense in which drug abuse could cause disruption of operations . . . or the potential for unwarranted disclosure of classified information through drug-related blackmail."

Maj. Pete Wyro, a Pentagon spokesman, said he could not predict how many of the department's 1.1 million civilian employees would be covered by the regulation or how much the program will cost.

He said, however, that the program, which takes effect Saturday, will be "limited" and that testing of any employee will have to be "justified on the basis of the job held."

The measure was criticized by government employee unions.

"We're aware of this, and we shudder at it," said Jim Jones, a labor relations specialist with the American Federation of Government Employees. "It's just part of a drift that we've seen into constitutional areas of privacy that worries us."